

18 18. The method for producing a silicon carbide sintered body according to claim 12, wherein a carbon content of an organic substance impregnated in the molded body during the calcination is 10 to 30%.--

B 19. The method for producing a silicon carbide sintered body according to claim 12, wherein a substance that forms a nitrogen source is added during one of preparing the slurry and forming the molded body.--

REMARKS

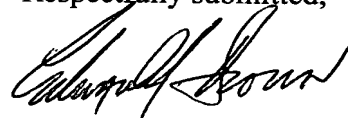
Claims 12-19 are pending. This Preliminary Amendment cancels claim 1 and adds new claims 12-19, which are directed to a method for producing a silicon carbide sintered body.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions in this matter, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:EAB/ldg

Attachment:

Appendix

Date: August 30, 2001

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P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;

Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claim 1 is canceled.

Claims 12-19 are added.

09/610,260